AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism for a high-voltage circuit-breaker comprising a coupling device ~~(A)~~ of the freewheel type disposed between a trigger shaft ~~(AC)~~ of the operating mechanism and an electrical motor ~~(M)~~, the coupling device comprising a first friction member ~~(5)~~ linked in motion with the trigger shaft and a second friction member ~~(6)~~ linked in motion with the electrical motor, said friction members being coaxially mounted on a secondary shaft ~~(1)~~ so that when said secondary shaft rotates in a predetermined direction ~~(D)~~ when a spring-loaded mechanism that acts on the device relaxes, it ~~being~~is possible for the second friction member ~~(6)~~ to freewheel about said secondary shaft ~~(1)~~ in said predetermined direction ~~(D)~~ at a speed of rotation that is lower than the speed of rotation of the secondary shaft ~~(1)~~, it also being possible for said second friction member ~~(6)~~ to be rotated by the motor in said predetermined direction, and to become constrained to rotate with the first friction member ~~(5)~~ so as to recock said spring-loaded mechanism, wherein:

~~characterized in that~~ said first friction member ~~(5)~~ has an outer surface ~~(5~~') of conical shape and comprises a central bore screwed onto said secondary shaft ~~(1)~~,

~~in that~~ the second friction member ~~(6)~~ comprises a peripheral set of teeth ~~(12)~~ ~~meshing~~meshing with the motor drive shaft and a central bore with an inner conical surface ~~(6')~~ which substantially surrounds the outer conical surface ~~(5')~~ of said first friction member, said first and second friction members being designed so that said first friction member is suitable for being moved over a short axial stroke along the secondary shaft either by being screwed when it becomes constrained to rotate with the second friction member ~~(6)~~ or by being unscrewed when said member freewheels about said secondary shaft ~~(1)~~,

~~in that~~ said first and second friction members ~~(5, 6)~~ remain continuously substantially in abutment one against the other along said secondary shaft ~~(1)~~,

~~in that~~ said first friction member ~~(5)~~ is suitable for acting when it is screwed to exert a pressure on said second friction member ~~(6)~~, and

~~in that~~ said second friction member ~~(6)~~ is suitable for acting under the effect of said pressure to press against an axial abutment ~~(8)~~ on the secondary shaft ~~(1)~~ so as to stop said first friction member ~~(5)~~ moving by being screwed, and so as to rotate said secondary shaft by constraining it to rotate with said first friction member ~~(5)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 1, in which said first friction member ~~(5)~~ is held substantially in abutment against said second friction member ~~(6)~~ by a spring ~~(10)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 2, in which said first friction member is screwed onto a thread ~~(F)~~ formed on the shaft ~~(1)~~, said thread being reversible.

4. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 1, in which said axial abutment is a ball-bearing abutment ~~(7)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 1, in which said first friction member ~~(5)~~ is provided with a peripheral set of teeth ~~(12)~~ meshed with said trigger shaft.

6. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 1, in which a conical ring ~~(13)~~is disposed between the two conical surfaces of said friction members ~~(5,6)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 1, in which the first friction member ~~(5)~~ has an outer conical surface ~~(5')~~ which is provided with peripheral grooves ~~(5")~~ serving to absorb dust.

8. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 6, in which the conical ring ~~(13)~~ is made with polyamide reinforced with glass fiber.

9. (Currently Amended) An ~~O~~operating mechanism according to claim 3, in which the thread ~~(F)~~ has four starts with a pitch of about 20 mm per turn, and the secondary shaft has a diameter of about 24 mm.